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Office of the Mayor
(843) 545-4002

June 17, 2020

To the Business Owners of the City of Georgetown:

As of June 17, 2020, SCDHEC announced 22 new confirmed cases in the County of Georgetown, which brings the total of positive and confirmed cases to 202 and 3 deaths due to COVID-19. DHEC estimated cases total 1,241 for a total of possible cases of 1,443.

According to SCDHEC, for the entire State of South Carolina, the new cases per day increased from 436 on June 8th to 801 on June 12th. These numbers show a drastic increase in COVID-19 cases in just four days. As of today and for the entire state, the total number of positive cases is 20,551 and 617 deaths.

On June 11, 2020, Governor Henry McMaster issued Executive Order No. 2020-40, which extended the declaration of state of emergency due to COVID-19 for another 15 days or until amended. In his Order, Governor McMaster requested that businesses “should consider and incorporate any corresponding industry guidelines..., in addition to undertaking and implementing all reasonable steps to comply with any applicable sanitation guidance promulgated by the CDC, DHEC, or any other state or federal public health officials.”

The Governor’s accelerateSC Task Force¹ issued its report with general guidelines² for business owners to put in place and facilitate re-opening. We must encourage “social distancing” practices as well as implementing other health protective measures. Businesses may implement industry standard and adapted measures to fight COVID-19 while providing for the health, safety, security, and welfare of their patrons.

The City highly encourages business owners to show that your customers are important not just for your business survival but also that you care about their health by establishing protective measures while patronizing your business. As a business owner, it is important that you gain the confidence of your customers.

As Mayor, I am committed to keeping all of us healthy during this pandemic but I cannot do it alone. We all need to use common sense and assume our responsibility to stop the spread of COVID-19 by implementing the CDC and SCDHEC protective guidelines.

I hope you join me in this fight.

Brendon M. Barber, Sr., Mayor

¹ <https://accelerate.sc.gov/>

² <https://sccommerce.com/covid-19-non-essential-business-guidelines>